

Site Description:

The Diamond Head Oil site is located at 1401 Harrison Avenue in Kearny, New Jersey. The Site, an oil reprocessing facility, was in operation from February 1, 1946 to early 1979. Currently the site is inactive and consists of approximately 15 acres of vacant land. The site is comprised of wetland areas and drainage ditches, a small wetland/pond, a vegetated landfill area along the western border of the site, and remnants of the former Diamond Head Oil Refinery on the eastern portion of the site. During facility operations, two above-ground storage tanks and possibly underground pits were used to store oily wastes. These wastes were intermittently discharged directly to adjacent properties, including the wetland area to the south of the site, creating an "oil lake". The abandoned refinery portion of the site contains various construction debris, including foundations of the former on-site building and two former above-ground storage tanks.

NPL Listing History:

Proposed Date: 7/27/2000

Final Date: Pending

Site Responsibility:

EPA is currently performing a search for Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) associated with the site.

Threats and Contaminants:

The material in the above-ground tanks was analyzed and found to contain polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) at a concentration of up to 206 parts per million (ppm). Subsequent analyses revealed the presence of PCBs at concentrations over 3,100 ppm. Analytical results from other sampling events where ground water, surface water/sediment, surface/subsurface soil, liquid waste and solid waste samples were collected, indicated the presence of volatile and semivolatile organic compounds, pesticides, PCBs, and metals.

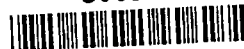
Cleanup approach:

The New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) acquired the property south of the site in 1968. In 1977, NJDOT began construction of I-280 and was reported to have removed nine million gallons of oil-contaminated water and five to six million cubic yards of oily sludge from the "lake". In addition, approximately 7,500 gallons of material were pumped out of the tanks and disposed off site. Twenty-seven tons of contaminated soil were also removed in 1982.

Response Action Status:

Previous investigations include a sampling event conducted by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, an Environmental Site Characterization conducted by Killiam Associates, and a Site Inspection conducted by EPA's Region II Field Investigation Team (FIT). In December 1999, EPA conducted an Expanded Site Inspection (ESI) at the site. During the ESI, EPA collected surface/subsurface, soil and ground water samples from 20 borings advanced throughout the site. Several on-site monitoring wells had a layer of non-aqueous phase liquid on top of the water column. EPA also collected sediment samples from the on-site wetland/pond area as well as from the wetland area

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extending along the southern perimeter of the site.

Cleanup Progress:

EPA is presently working in the preparation of a workplan to leading to the performance of a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) at the site, to select a remedy to eliminate, reduce, or control risks to human health and the environment.

Site Repository: